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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

CLAIMS

- 1. (amended) A method of fitting a tire P and a removable tread support S on a one-piece wheel rim J, said rim comprising a first rim seat, inclined outwards, extended axially outwards by a projection of low height and joined axially inwards to a rim bearing surface intended to receive said tread support S and a second rim seat, inclined outwards, whose axially inner end is on a circle with a diameter greater than the diameter of [[the]] a circle on which the axially inner end of the first rim seat is situated, and said tire P comprising a first bead and a second bead which will be mounted respectively on the first and second rim seats, said method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) placing said tread support S into said tire P,
 - (b) placing, from [[the]] a side opposite to the second rim seat, the second bead of said tire P and said tread support S on the rim J until positioned on said rim bearing surface;
 - (c) fitting said tread support S completely onto said rim bearing surface and mounting the first bead on the first rim scat; and
 - (d) mounting the second bead on the second rim seat;

whereby the step (e) of fitting said tread support onto said rim bearing surface further comprises the sequence of sub-steps of:

- first, gripping the first bead scat of said tire P at a given location before completely pushing said tread support S on said rim bearing surface, then
- moving radially outward said given location of the first bead seat to move the first bead seat radially away from said tread support S,
- pushing said tread support S completely onto said rim bearing surface, and

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- releasing the first bead after completing the pushing of the said tread support S on to said rim J.
- 2. (original) The mounting method according to Claim 1, wherein the step (c) of fitting said tread support S on said rim bearing surface is accomplished by direct axial pushing of an application tool against the wall of said tread support S and said tool being disposed on the side of said tread support corresponding to the first bead and while rotating said rim about its axis of symmetry.
- 3. (original) The mounting method according to Claim 2, wherein the step (c) of fitting said tread support S on said rim bearing surface is continued until a stop on said application tool contacts an external projection on the first seat of said rim J.
- 4. (original) The mounting method according to Claim 3, wherein said rim J further comprises a mounting well disposed between the second seat and said rim bearing surface of said tread support, and wherein
 - the step (b) of placing the second bead of said tire P and said tread support S further comprises placing the second bead into said mounting well, and
 - after fitting completely said tread support S on said rim bearing surface and before releasing the first bead of said tire, moving the first bead axially outwardly to exert a traction on the second bead to create a local space between the second bead of said tire P and the wall of said mounting well adjacent to the second seat of said rim J, and introducing a mounting lever into said local space between the second bead and the wall of the mounting well adjacent to the second seat.
- 5. (amended) A tool for fitting the beads of a tire P and a tread support S on a single-piece rim J, comprising:
 - an clongate-shaped bracket having an axis A,
 - a finger extending from said bracket in a direction B perpendicular said axis A; and

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- a means for transmitting an application force from said bracket for pushing said tread support S onto said rim J at [[to]] a zone C projecting beyond said finger, said zone C being offset a distance D measured in the direction B from said axis A of said bracket.
- 6. (original) The tool according to Claim 5, wherein said means for transmitting an application force from said bracket is a slider.
- 7. (original) The tool according to Claim 5, wherein said means for transmitting an application force from said bracket is a freely rotating roller.
- 8. (original) The tool according to Claim 7, wherein said roller has an axis of rotation A' parallel to said axis A of said bracket.
- 9. (original) The tool according to Claim 7, wherein said roller is fixed to said finger.
- 10. (original) The tool according to Claim 5, further comprising a stop disposed in the direction B relative to said bracket and offset relative to said finger along said axis A beyond said force transmission means.
- 11. (original) The tool according to Claim 10, wherein said stop is a freely rotating roller having an axis of rotation parallel to said axis Λ .
- 12. (original) The tool according to Claim 10, wherein said stop is a freely rotating roller having an axis of rotation coaxial with said axis A.
- 13. (original) The tool according to Claim 5, further comprising a fixing projection from said bracket for fixing said bracket to a tool support, and said fixing projection having an axis substantially parallel to said axis A and offset in the direction B by a distance less than or equal to said distance D.
- 14. (original) The tool according to Claim 13, wherein the axis of said fixing projection is substantially coaxial with said axis A'.